

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request consideration of this application in view of the foregoing amendment and following remarks.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-19 were pending in this application and were rejected in a final office action dated March 31, 2006. By this amendment, independent claims 1, 9, 10, 18 and 19 are amended, claims 3, 5, 6, 12, 14 and 15 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, and dependent claims 2, 4, 7-11, 13, 16 and 17 are amended. No new matter has been added by this amendment.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-4, 9, 10-13, 18 and 19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,862,594 to Saulpaugh (“Saulpaugh”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,426,946 to Sengodan (“Sengodan”). Claims 5-8 and 14-17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Saulpaugh in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,708,171 to Waldo et al. (“Waldo”).

As indicated above, independent claims 1, 9, 10, 18 and 19 have been amended for further clarification.

Claim 1 as amended is directed to a communication terminal connected to, via a network, a plurality of service providers and to a look-up service, comprising a look-up service search means, a determining means, first and second acquisition means, and a multicast notification means. The look-up service search means searches for the look-up service in the network. The determining means determines whether the look-up service search means can search for the look-up service. If the look-up service search means can search for the look-up service, the first

acquisition means acquires a desired service object from the searched look-up service by transmitting a service search request to the look-up service and receiving the desired service object from the look-up service. If the look-up service search means cannot search for the look-up service, the multicast notification means issues a multicast notification to the network in order to request the plurality of service providers to transmit respective service objects. The second acquisition means receives the plurality of service objects transmitted from the plurality of service providers responsive to the issued multicast notification, and acquires a desired service object from among the plurality of received service objects. In addition, the second acquisition means rejects a service search request transmitted from another client apparatus responsive to the issued multicast notification. Other independent claims (i.e., claims 9, 10, 18 and 19) as amended recite similar features to amended claim 1 as discussed herein.

In the present invention, the communication terminal searches for a look-up service, and if the search is successful, it acquires a desired service object from the look-up service. If, however, the search is unsuccessful, it issues a multicast notification to the network. Applicants note that the communication terminal of the present invention receives the plurality of service objects transmitted from the plurality of service providers responsive to the issued multicast notification, acquires a desired service object from among the plurality of received service objects, and rejects a service search request transmitted from another client's apparatus responsive to the issued multicast notification.

Applicants believe that none of the cited art of record (i.e., Saulpaugh, Sengodan and Waldo) shows or suggests this aspect of the present invention as discussed above.

Accordingly, each of independent claims 1, 9, 10, 18 and 19 is believed neither anticipated by nor rendered obvious in view of Saulpaugh, Sengodan and Waldo, either taken alone or in combination, for at least the reasons discussed above.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1, 9, 10, 18 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully requested.

Applicants have not individually addressed the rejections of the remaining dependent claims (i.e., claims 2, 4, 7-11, 13, 16 and 17) because Applicants submit that the independent claims from which they respectively depend are in condition for allowance as set forth above. Applicants however reserve the right to address such rejections of the dependent claims should such be necessary.

Applicants believe that the application as amended is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

AUTHORIZATION

A petition for a two-month extension of time along with the associated fee is enclosed, extending the date for responding until August 31, 2006. Should an additional extension of time be required to render this paper timely filed, such extension is hereby petitioned and the Commissioner is authorized to charge any other fees necessitated by this Amendment, or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 13-4500 (Order No. 1232-4778). A DUPLICATE COPY OF THIS SHEET IS ENCLOSED. An early and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Dated: August 30, 2006

Respectfully submitted,
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